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## USU Faculty Senate Minutes, April 4, 2011

Utah State University

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**USU FACULTY SENATE  
MINUTES  
APRIL 4, 2011  
Merrill-Cazier Library, Room 154**

Vince Wickwar called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2011 was received and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements – Vince Wickwar**

**Roll Call.** Members are reminded to sign the role sheet at each meeting.

**University Business – President Stan Albrecht.**

President Albrecht and Provost Coward are both out of town on business. Sydney Peterson gave a brief update on the search for the VP of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies position. About a dozen applicants participated in video conference interviews. From that, the list of applicants was narrowed to four candidates. Upon completion of final reference checks the finalists will be brought to campus for face-to-face interviews and open forums before the end of the semester.

**Information Items**

**Calendar Committee – Scott Bates.** The Calendar Committee has examined several perceived problems with the current schedule and in their report offered some proposed solutions. Among the identified problems are the discrepancy in teaching days, 70 for Fall and 73 for Spring; the alternate day schedules after holidays; and USU's spring break and local schools districts spring breaks being at different times. Some possible solutions could be extending Thanksgiving break and coordinating with the local school districts to have all the spring breaks overlap. The senate discussed some of the pros and cons of each of these. The sentiment among senators was that beginning Fall semester earlier to increase the number of teaching days is a bad idea because it shortens field work time and student employment time. Senators favored extending Fall semester a few days into December over beginning earlier. The alternate day schedule after holidays impacts RCDE and any other once-a-week classes heavily e.g., classes are often canceled or students cannot arrange work schedules to attend on the alternate day. Dropping the alternate day schedules would be an easy fix. Many senators expressed the sentiment that "if it isn't broken don't fix it". Aligning the spring breaks with the public school system would be nice for faculty with school age children but the districts are reluctant to move their break earlier into March because of poor weather; it is difficult for USU to have an April spring break just before finals.

The Calendar Committee will take the senators feedback into consideration and present a final calendar at the next meeting.

**Committee on Committees Election Results – Glenn McEvoy.** All of the colleges have completed their faculty senator elections with the exception of RCDE. Elections for Faculty Senate committees were also conducted and most of the positions are filled. Rhonda Miller was

re-elected to BFW, Randy Simmons was re-elected to PRPC. The Emma Eccles Jones College of Education is missing representatives for AFT and FDDE. For the College of Engineering, Christopher Neale was elected to FDDE and Richard Peralta to PRPC. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is missing a representative to the FEC committee. The College of Natural Resources is also missing representatives to FEC and PRPC. There will be representatives from USU-CEU on all six senate standing committees next year. Glenn reminded senators that FSEC representatives from each college are elected to two-year terms. Each college needing a new FSEC representative needs to caucus and elect their representative for FSEC. By code the newly elected senators are invited to the last Faculty Senate meeting of the year, April 25, 2011. The lists of Faculty Senators and committee members for 2011-2012 will be available shortly on the Faculty Senate website ([www.usu.edu/fsenate/](http://www.usu.edu/fsenate/)), and will be updated regularly.

#### **Consent Agenda Items – Vince Wickwar.**

**PRPC Annual Report – Bob Parson.** There were no questions for Bob from the senators.

A motion to approve the annual report was made by Mike Parent and seconded by Nick Morrison. The motion passed unanimously.

**Honorary Degrees and Awards Report – Sydney Peterson.** Sydney briefed the senate on the five honorary degree recipients. Their names and brief biographies were included in the agenda packet for this meeting. Sydney also announced that the Board of Trustees has approved John Wilkerson as the Commencement speaker for Spring 2011.

A motion to accept the report was made by Sheri Hadderlie and seconded by Glenn McEvoy. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Action Items**

**Nominations for Faculty Senate President Elect – Glenn McEvoy.** The code requires that at the same time and in the same manner the senate elect a President-Elect and the Committee on Committee representatives. In case there were more nominees than positions, paper ballots had been made to use in Logan and electronic ballots made and tested to use for USU-CEU, RCDE, and Extension. Two new Committee on Committees representatives are needed for next year. Ed Heath nominated Robert Schmidt for Committee on Committees representative and Flora Shrode seconded. Flora Shrode nominated Jeff Smitten for Committee on Committees representative and a second was received. There were no further nominations.

Nick Morrison moved to close nominations, a second was received. The vote for these candidates was unanimous. No secret ballot was needed since there were no more nominees than positions to fill.

Flora Shrode nominated Renee Galliher for the position of Faculty Senate President-Elect, and a second was received. Renee is on sabbatical and was not present at the meeting. There were no further nominations. A motion to close nominations was made and seconded. A senator asked for more information about Renee. Flora Shrode responded that Renee has served as a senator and on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. She promotes thoughtful and rational discussion in those meetings.

The motion to elect Renee Galliher by acclamation passed unanimously. No secret ballot was needed since there were no other nominations.

**Ad-Hoc Committee USU-CEU Code Changes (First Reading) – Vince Wickwar.** Senators had received the latest version of the proposed code changes a week prior to the meeting. Some non-substantive corrections (e.g. typo's, spelling, punctuation, etc.) were marked on the proposed

code and distributed as a separate document at the meeting. Senators were allowed some time to review these non-substantive changes.

Ed Heath made a motion to include the corrections as part of the first reading and Doug Jackson-Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Section 401.** A senator questioned if the proposed School of Technology, to which the proposed Professional Career and Technical Education faculty would belong, would function independently or as a department within a college. Michelle Larson clarified that it would be within a college and function as a department.

Glenn McEvoy moved to accept the changes to Section 401. Ed Heath seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Section 402.** There was no discussion of the proposed changes in this section.

A motion to accept the changes was made by Ed Heath and seconded by Rhonda Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

**Section 403.** Glenn McEvoy moved to accept the changes in Section 403 and a second was received. Doug Jackson-Smith requested that the word "open" be left in Section 403.3.3(1) in the phrase "Faculty members conduct themselves in **an open**, fair, civil, and humane manner both in general and when making decisions or recommendations concerning admissions, employment, promotion, retention, tenure, and other professional matters." There was discussion about the confusion this might cause with the open meetings law, and Vince Wickwar explained that the removal of this word was suggested by people familiar with the open meetings law who were concerned that its inclusion might lead to having to make meetings concerning employment, promotion, retention, tenure, etc. open.

Glenn McEvoy made a friendly amendment to his motion to accept Section 403, but leave the word "open" in this phrase and refer it to PRPC for review. Blake Tullis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Section 404.** There was no discussion of the proposed changes in this section.

A motion to accept the changes was received and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Section 405.** A motion to accept the changes was made by Nat Frazier and seconded by Steve Burr. Several issues were raised with Section 405. Specifically one involved Section 405.6.3, dealing with a candidate's file. Some senators claimed that the new wording would remove the right of candidates to add letters of rebuttal to their files. Vince read the original code to clarify that the current code does not allow letters of rebuttal because all things have to be put into the file prior to the first meeting of the Promotion and Tenure Committee. Hence, no rights were being removed. Instead, a new right was being added to allow letters concerning specific events to be added. Senators commented, despite two distributions of the proposed changes and two special Faculty Senate meetings to review these changes, that they felt rushed to push these changes through without PRPC reviewing them and questioned if the committee was charged to make these types of changes as opposed to changes that only specifically affected USU-CEU. They were referred to the committee's charge, which was more general than just proposing USU-CEU related changes, that had been distributed and approved a couple of times. Also, Executive Secretary Joan Kleinke read in part from the minutes of March 14 that "Each member of the committee reviewed each section separately and made comments, suggestions and changes. In the process the Ad Hoc Committee found that they were dealing with issues from the Kras Committee that PRPC would be deliberating simultaneously. As a consequence, the ad hoc committee decided to incorporate some of them into their work, because it would be too difficult and too confusing to have two different groups going forward with code changes at the same

time, especially when they overlapped.....” In the previous Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate had voted to pass the Ad Hoc Committee’s proposal to have two special meetings to review all the proposed changes. Another concern was in Section 405.7.2(1), involving external review letters. In the present code, reviewers are asked to evaluate the faculty member’s research or creative endeavors. This presents a problem for a number of faculty members at USU-CEU, RCDE, and Logan whose major professional role is teaching, not research. The proposed change was to ask the reviewers “to evaluate the candidate’s achievement of excellence in his or her major professional role.” There was a concern expressed that when role statements have high percentages for both teaching and research, there should be the ability to evaluate both, not just the primary role. There was also a concern expressed that external reviewers could not evaluate teaching excellence.

Mike Parent made a motion to add language that faculty would be evaluated on “excellence and effectiveness, as appropriate, for his or her major professional roles”. Byron Burnham seconded the motion. There was further debate and a suggestion that this proposed change needs to go to PRPC. It was stated that if we do that it would hold up what is needed for USU-CEU. The question was called. The motion did not pass.

Glenn McEvoy made a friendly amendment to the original motion that would exclude the change in Section 405.6.3 (and parallel language in Section 405.11.3) and exclude the change on external review letters in Section 405.7.2(1) (and parallel language in Sections 405.8.3(1) and 405.11.4(1)) and in any other related sections. That is, in these sections, the language would revert back to the original code. In addition, possible new changes to these sections would be sent to PRPC early in the fall for evaluation. A second to this motion was made by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

Craig Petersen also noted that Section 405.12.2, referring to the quinquennial review, has inconsistent wording in the beginning and middle of the first paragraph. He moved that the wording in the middle of the paragraph be modified to read “equal to or higher rank”. Glenn McEvoy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion to accept the proposed changes in Section 405 as modified with these two foregoing amendments. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Section 406.** There was no discussion of the proposed changes in this section.

Glenn McEvoy moved to accept the changes. A second was received and the motion passed unanimously.

**Section 407.** There was no discussion of the proposed changes in this section.

A motion to accept the changes was made by Steve Burr and seconded by Doug Jackson-Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made at 5:00 p.m.